

Health News Release

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State disciplines health care providers

OLYMPIA — The Washington State Department of Health has taken disciplinary actions or withdrawn charges against health care providers in our state.

The department's Health Systems Quality Assurance Division works with boards, commissions, and advisory committees to set licensing standards for more than 70 health care professions (e.g., medical doctors, nurses, counselors).

Information about health care providers is on the agency website. Click on "Look up a healthcare provider license" in the "How Do I?" section of the Department of Health website (doh.wa.gov). The site includes information about a health care provider's license status, the expiration and renewal date of their credential, disciplinary actions and copies of legal documents issued after July 1998. This information is also available by calling 360-236-4700. Consumers who think a health care provider acted unprofessionally are also encouraged to call and report their complaint.

Benton County

In August 2012 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Peggy Edith Ajax** (RN00071101) with unprofessional conduct. Ajax's license to practice nursing in Colorado was indefinitely suspended.

Chelan County

In August 2012 the Nursing Assistant Program charged registered nursing assistant **Mirian Elizabeth Jimenez** (NA60164300) with unprofessional conduct. Jimenez was convicted of second-degree theft and second-degree complicity to trafficking in stolen property in 2012 for stealing a ring belonging to a resident of the adult family home where Jimenez worked.

Clark County

In August 2012 the Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems Program charged emergency medical technician **David Dennis Boespflug** (ES60095879) with unprofessional conduct. Boespflug was convicted of two counts of indecent liberties in 2011.

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Grays Harbor County

In August 2012 the Massage Program charged **Jarrid D. Horn** (MA00008352) with unprofessional conduct. Horn allegedly billed and submitted claims of about \$6,900 to Department of Labor and Industries for massage services he gave while his credential was expired.

King County

In August 2012 the Occupational Therapy Board charged **Linda S. Baker** (OT00000498) with unprofessional conduct for working as an occupational therapist with an expired credential.

In August 2012 the Nursing Assistant Program charged registered nursing assistant **Nita B. Simonelli** (NA60213648) with unprofessional conduct. Simonelli was terminated from the facility where she worked for stealing from a resident.

In August 2012 the Chiropractic Commission entered into an agreed order with chiropractor **Richard E. Stocker** (CH00001994). Stocker must comply with terms and conditions set against his license.

Okanogan County

In August 2012 the Pharmacy Board reinstated the credential of pharmacy technician **Kelly Jean Anderson** (VA00066204). Anderson must comply with terms and conditions set against her credential.

In August 2012 the Nursing Commission charged licensed practical nurse **Judith Whalawitsa** (LP00020007) with unprofessional conduct. Whalawitsa allegedly transcribed physician orders incorrectly on more than one occasion, used the wrong test strips for glucose testing, and administered medication doses that didn't match physician orders.

Pierce County

In August 2012 the Nursing Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant **Karysa D. Snell** (NC10102080) with unprofessional conduct. Snell allegedly stole more than \$400 from patients at the facility where she worked.

In August 2012 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Kathie L. Zeman** (RN00128487) with unprofessional conduct. Zeman allegedly failed to respond appropriately to an equipment alarm and told a patient's caregiver to give the patient medication without a physician's order, creating risk of harm to the patient.

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Snohomish County

In August 2012 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Teresa Dunn** (RN00119860) with unprofessional conduct for failing to comply with a previous stipulation.

In August 2012 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Christina Hartsell** (RN60049870) with unprofessional conduct. It is alleged that Hartsell withdrew controlled substances for four patients, and then either failed to administer them, document wastage of them, or diverted the medication for her own use. She also tested positive for marijuana during a workplace drug screen.

Spokane County

In August 2012 the Nursing Assistant Program charged registered nursing assistant **Mary Lois Belton** (NA60119200) with unprofessional conduct. Belton allegedly tested positive for methamphetamine and marijuana during a workplace drug screen.

In August 2012 the Nursing Assistant Program charged registered nursing assistant **Mary A. Bolter** (NA00174307) with unprofessional conduct. Bolter allegedly financially exploited a vulnerable adult and can no longer be employed in a position that allows her unsupervised access to vulnerable adults or children. Bolter also allegedly failed to pay the vulnerable adult's obligations and wrote checks for her personal benefit on the vulnerable adult's bank account.

In August 2012 the Nursing Assistant Program released registered nursing assistant **Loretta Ann Clark** (NA60080398) from terms and conditions set against her credential.

In August 2012 the Nursing Commission charged licensed practical nurse **Jo L. Devor** (LP00021636) with unprofessional conduct. Devor allegedly charted several patients as having stable vital signs when she hadn't taken the patients' vital signs.

In July 2012 the Nursing Assistant Program denied the registered nursing assistant credential application of **Jasmine N. Singh** (NA60262918). Singh was convicted of first-degree perjury in 2011.

In August 2012 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Cynthia S. Wachtel** (RN00155598) with unprofessional conduct. Wachtel allegedly borrowed \$2,500 from a patient and didn't repay him. The patient also gave Wachtel about \$350 shortly after she was hired to purchase items for her daughter.

Thurston County

In August 2012 the Counselor Program charged agency affiliated counselor **Pete Francisco Feliciano** (CG60161562) with unprofessional conduct. Feliciano allegedly treated sex offenders

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when he doesn't hold a credential to do so. He also allegedly provided treatment to sex offenders who were also on his probation officer caseload creating a risk that confidential information disclosed in one context could be disclosed or used in another context.

In August 2012 the Nursing Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant **Michael Danial Smith** (NC10044378) with unprofessional conduct. The Department of Social and Health Services issued a final finding stating Smith abused vulnerable adults for several months. He's restricted from working in a position that involves the care of vulnerable adults or a position that allows unsupervised access to them.

Whatcom County

In August 2012 the Health Care Assistant Program set aside the July 2012 default order against **Tania A. Swanberg** (HC00133167).

In August 2012 the Health Care Assistant Program granted the credential of **Patricia S. Walden** (HC60286514) and placed it on probation until at least March 14, 2014. Walden must comply with terms and conditions set against her credential.

Yakima County

In August 2012 Chemical Dependency Professional Program charged certified chemical dependency professional **Javier M. Galindo** (CP00005480) with unprofessional conduct. It is alleged that Galindo gave substandard care and charged clients for treatment services not provided. He also inadequately accounted for client payments.

Note to Editors: Health care providers charged with unprofessional conduct have 20 days to respond to the Department of Health in writing. The case then enters the settlement process. If no disciplinary agreement can be reached, the case will go to a hearing.

The <u>Department of Health website</u> (www.doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

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